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## Swedes Press Russians About Missing Diplomat

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MOSCOW, Apr. 3.—The case of a missing diplomat whose fate is unknown and whose story reveals a mystery novel in under discussion at the highest level of the Russian government tonight.

Premier Tage Erlander of Sweden, who is on a good-will visit here, disclosed that he has asked Russian leaders for information about Hans Wallenberg, who disappeared while on a mercy mission in 1945.

Mr. Erlander did not say with whom he discussed the Wallenberg case, but since his arrival here Friday he has been in almost daily contact with Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai S. Khrushchev, Communist party chief Nikita S. Khrushchev and Foreign Minister Vladimir N. Molotov.

Principal Source

Source close to Mr. Erlander said the fate of Mr. Wallenberg is the principal issue standing in the way of better Russian-Swedish relations and gave the following account of the ten-year-old mystery:

The son of the wealthiest banking family in Sweden, Hans Wallenberg closed with activity in neutral Sweden during World War II. In 1944,

he was offered and accepted a dangerous mission in East-Baltic territory.

He was given a temporary post in the Swedish diplomatic corps and the job of securing as many Jews as possible from Hitler's concentration camps up headquarters in Budapest. He managed to rescue thousands of Jews from gas chambers and find them a haven in Sweden.

Disappeared in 1945

Soon after the Russians created control of Budapest from the Nazis early in 1945, Mr. Wallenberg disappeared, and since then nothing has been heard about him officially.

The Swedish government inquired about him in a diplomatic note, then followed with a similar note demanding Mr. Wallenberg's return. This demand was met with the reply that the Russian government had no information on the diplomat's whereabouts.

Since that time Swedish diplomats have received tips—which they have not been able to verify—that Mr. Wallenberg was in the Soviet Union. Mr. Erlander decided to take the case up with the latest Russian leaders in an effort to learn the diplomat's fate.

Continued at Reception

At a reception at the Swedish Embassy tonight, Erlander was asked whether the Russian gov-

ernment had been able to satisfy him in the Wallenberg affair.

"You will have to wait for the commission," Mr. Erlander said, referring to a joint statement expected tomorrow on the Swedish-Russian talks.

He was asked whether his reply was a hint that Mr. Wallenberg, a Christian who risked his life in East territory to save friends of another faith, was still alive.

"That I cannot definitely say," he replied. "I can only hope."

Among the Russian leaders attending tonight's reception

were Nikolai S. Khrushchev, Mr. Molotov and Leonid M. Kaganovich, a First Deputy Premier. In contrast to previous receptions where one vodka toast followed another, the Russians were in restrained form and drank only one glass of champagne each.

At an informal press conference following the reception, Mr. Erlander said he believed the Russian government to be sincere and serious in its desire for contacts with other countries. He added that he judged the chances of peace to have improved in the last two years.

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